metro cities at and Telecom Circles and the information in respesct of Basic Telephone service is given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix 181 Annexure No. 25)

Change in equity structure/partners for basic and cellular operators

777. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the DoT for change in equity structure/partners for basic and cellular operators including LCI holders;

(b) if so, the details of all such proposal received including the names of the original promoters/shareholders as well as the names of new promoters/ shareholders; and

(c) the decision taken by the DoT on all such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the details given in the Annexure. (*See Appendix 181 Annexure No. 26.*

Post/Sub-Post Offices in Rural Areas of Gujarat

778. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post/Sub-Post Offices functioning in rural areas of Gujarat at present;

(b) the number of villages in the State where there is no postal facilities available so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of representations for opening of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices have been received by Governments; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far and by when Government propose to provide postal facilities there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of Post/Sub-Post Offices functioning in rural areas of Gujarat at present, is 8142.

(b) The number of villages in the State where there is no post office, is 9922. However, postal facilities are being made available to such villages from nearby post offices.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The representations for opening post offices received from various quarters are examined and post offices are sanctioned on norm based justification subject to availability of resources and Plan targets. Under the Annual Plan 1997-98, a target of opening 2 Departmental Sub-Post Offices and 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been fixed for Gujarat Circle.

नए डाकघर खोलने के लिए जनप्रतिनिधियों और विभाग से अभ्यावेदन

779. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जनप्रतिनिधियों एवं विभाग ने वर्ष 1995-96 और 1996-97 के दौरान नए डाकघर खोलने के लिए उनके मंत्रालय/विभाग को अनेक प्रतिवेदन अनुमोदनार्थ भेजे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उन स्थानों का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है जहां नए डाकघर खोलने संबंधी प्रस्तावों पर विभाग विचार कर रहा है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश परिमंडल, शिमला के पोस्टमास्टर जनरल ने हिमाचल प्रदेश में कुल्लू जिला के सुल्तान पुर में एक डाकघर खोलने के लिए अपनी अनुशंसा सहित एक प्रस्ताव भेजा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस मामले में क्या प्रगति हुई है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) नए डाकघर खोलने के लिए जन प्रतिनिधियों और विभाग द्वारा अग्रेषित अभ्यावेदनों के ब्यौरों से